

Weekly Status & Information Report: March 5 - 9, 2012

French Songs & Rhymes: Madame Marie returns to the Library tomorrow morning - Saturday, March 10, at 10:30 a.m. Join us for songs and rhymes in French for little ones. No registration necessary. (Library)

Les Miserables: The Friends Reading Group will meet Wednesday, March 14, in the Community Center Hydrangea Room, for the first of a four part discussion of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables." Our guest speaker will be GW University Professor Masha Belinky. All are welcome - no registration is required. (Library)

1. Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of March 12, 2012:

- City Council meeting, Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
- Recreation Committee meeting, Monday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room
- Tree Commission meeting, Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. in the Lilac Room
- Facade Advisory Board meeting, Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Rose Room
- Redistricting Task Force meeting, Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m. in the Council Conference Room

All meetings are held in the Community Center and open to the public unless noted otherwise. (City Clerk)

2. Teen College Expo, March 10: The teen division of the Recreation Department is taking interested high school students to Trinity Washington University's "Smart Choice College Expo," Saturday, March 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This opportunity should help teens who are preparing to transition from high school to college more information to make the right choice. The Recreation Department is encouraging teens who are not yet seniors to get an early start on searching for colleges as well. For more information, please contact (301) 891-7290 or (301) 891-7100. (Recreation)

3. Sidewalk Repairs: Sidewalk repairs scheduled for Tulip Avenue between Carroll Avenue and Willow Avenue start next week. The City's contractor will be replacing cracked and damaged sidewalk, installing brick sidewalks in areas where there are tree root conflicts and installing ADA compliant curb ramps and driveway crossings. All households in the affected area have received a flyer regarding the planned work. (Public Works)

4. "A Conversation in Music" - Tuesday, March 13: We are Takoma presents "A Conversation in Music" with pianist - and Takoma Park resident - Carl Banner. Enjoy the music of Schumann, Chopin, and Brahms in a bit of conversation. This free concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium (7500 Maple Avenue) on Thursday, March 13. For details www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD#!/events/284500834952033/ (Housing and Community Development)

5. Irish Music and the Classics at the Takoma Park Community Center: The "We are Takoma" concert on Tuesday is just the beginning of a week of great music at the Takoma Park Community Center. On Wednesday, March 14, the Institute of Musical Traditions presents the traditional Irish music of "Téada" at 7:30 p.m. (www.imtfolk.org.) On Friday, March 16, Washington Musica Viva continues its concert series with "Hot Classics," the music of Mozart, Brahms, and Chevalier de Saint-George at 7:30 p.m. <http://dcmusicaviva.org> For ticket information, please check the groups' respective websites. (Housing and Community Development)

6. Third Thursday Poetry Reading - March 15: Featured this month is the work of local poets Gregory Luce, David Camero, Katie Herman and Martin FitzPatrick. The poetry begins at 7:30 pm in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Free Admission. www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD#!/events/364408636925438/ (Housing and Community Development)

7. Registration begins March 15, 2012 – Spring and Summer Activities Guide: March into spring with new classes and programs offered by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Starting on March 15, you will be able to register for all camps, classes, and programs that take place between April and August 2012. To help with your summer planning, please visit the Recreation Department website www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation. (Recreation)

8. City Support for Commercial Façade Improvements - Deadline March 31: The City's Façade Easement Program provides matching funds to business and property owners for physical improvements to building exteriors and their surroundings. The program will provide a dollar for dollar match up to 50% of the overall cost for eligible improvement expenses, up to \$10,000 per storefront. The application deadline is March 31 and applicants are strongly encouraged to contact staff prior to making a submission. The downloadable application packet outlines eligible areas in the city, types of improvements covered in the program, and review process: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/newsfeed/2012%20Facade%20Easement%20Application%20%20Map.pdf>. For more information, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or ErkinO@takomagov.org. (Housing and Community Development)

9. First Time Home Buyer Class - April 14: Don't delay!! This class has been very popular in the past years. Learn all you need to know about buying a house or a condominium. The class is conducted by a HUD-approved housing agency and a certificate of completion is awarded to all attendees at the end of the class which can be used to access low interest loan programs offered by the county and state. The class will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and is free of charge to Takoma Park residents and \$25 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-891-7222. (Housing and Community Development)

10. Are You Eligible for Foreclosure Review? If your primary residence was involved in a foreclosure process between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010, you may qualify for a free independent foreclosure review if your mortgage servicer is

one of 28 designated companies. For further information visit www.IndependentForeclosureReview.com or call 1-888-952-9105 Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Saturday, from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. (*Housing and Community Development*)

11. **Mulch Delivery Available:** The City's mulch delivery program starts Friday, March 16. The leaves, collected from the Fall leaf collection program, are shredded and available to be picked up at the Public Works yard for free or delivered to your home for a fee. The City's leaf mulch makes a great soil amendment for lawns or gardens. For City residents the delivery of 3 yards is \$45 and 7 or 10 yards is \$65. Deliveries outside the City are \$65 and \$105. Call Public Works at 301-891-7633 to schedule. We deliver on Friday only, until supplies are depleted. The mulch pile is accessible for self loading, 7 days a week, outside the Public Works building at 31 Oswego Avenue. Arrangements can also be made for loading trucks for a fee of \$20 to \$30. (*Public Works*)

12. **Recreation Director Visits Senior Housing:** On Thursday evening, March 8, Recreation Director Gregory Clark made a special visit to speak with seniors at a housing complex in Takoma Park – Victory Tower. Director Clark spoke about the current program offerings to seniors through the Recreation Department and future initiatives for the department. Mr. Clark invited the seniors to an upcoming concert/performance at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Transportation is being coordinated by Paula Lisowski, senior programs manager. For more information on senior programs please contact Paula at (301) 891-7280. (*Recreation*)

13. **"Go Deep" Flag Football + Kickball = After School Fun:** Flag Football begins on Wednesday, March 21 - this skills program teaches the basic fundamentals of football, while emphasizing participation and sportsmanship. Kickball begins on Thursday, March 22 - this classic game will energize your afternoon and encourage fitness and fun. For more information on these programs, please visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation Register today! (*Recreation*)

14. **Softball in Takoma Park:** It's that time of year again! Calling all softball players and teams – please register for the Adult Softball League. This league is coed and all games are played on Sunday mornings. Registration Deadline is April 6 – so hurry and don't be late. For more information please contact EricR@takomagov.org or call (301) 891-7290. www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/flyers/softball_flyer_2012_color_for_web.pdf. (*Recreation*)

15. **Get Fit For Summer With Jazzercise:** Jazzercise is offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue, Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. This class combines Jazz with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60-70 minute class includes easy-to-follow fun aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength, and stretching exercises to the beat of great music. For more information contact John Webster at (301) 891-7289. (*Recreation*)

16. **Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Updated date, April 7:** The Recreation Department will be hosting its annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The hunt will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. and is for girls and boys ages 2 - 8. So, mark your calendars and save the date as you won't want to miss out on this "egg" citing time. For additional information please contact Lew McAllister at (301)891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. (*Recreation*)

17. **Music and Tea for Seniors:** Eighteen (18) seniors traveled by Recreation Bus to the Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda, Maryland for "Musicalitea" on Thursday, March 8. The faculty and students of the Levine School of Music performed beautiful violin and piano selections by Gershwin and Bach. After the performance, seniors were treated to tea and light refreshments. (*Recreation*)

18. **Teen Ski Club:** On Saturday March 3, the teens enjoyed their final ski trip of the season at White Tail Ski Resort in Pennsylvania. It was a safe season with no injuries, just a lot of fun. During the outdoor adventures, the teens expressed how they enjoyed the entire season and that they improved in various aspects of skiing and snowboarding. After the last trip the teens said that they are looking forward to next season for the Ski and Snowboard Club. (*Recreation*)

19. **Officers in Meetings:**

- Throughout the week, Chief Ricucci held interviews to fill a vacancy on the Chief's Advisory Board.
- On March 2, Capt. Coursey attended a public kick-off meeting for the revision to the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City was a signatory to the 2007 plan, as were most or all of the municipalities within the county. By participating in the planning process and being a signatory to the plan, the City remains eligible to apply for FEMA mitigation funding, as opportunities become available. This meeting was a follow up to internal County Emergency Management Group announcement meetings held in November of 2011. The main focus this more recent meeting was to come to consensus on which hazards should be reflected in the plan, ranking those in order of likelihood of occurrence and severity to the County, and to standardize as much of the hazard terminology with that which is used in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan as is possible.
- On March 8, Capt. Coursey attended the regularly scheduled Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting. Reacting to feedback received during the bi-annual report to Council, topics that the Committee is working on include arranging an opportunity for Council observance of an appropriate exercise for emergency management, and developing ways to improve communication about the status of key businesses in or around the City during an emergency. (*Police*)

20. **Officers in Training:**

- On March 5-9, 2012, Sgt. Gilbert, Pfc. Brown and Ms. Dean attended training entitled "Domestic Violence Instructor Training" at the MPCTC Public Safety & Educational Training Center in Sykesville, Maryland.
- On March 7, 2012, Dispatcher Cubillo attended training entitled "How to Become a Better Communicator" at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Frederick, Maryland. (*Police*)

21. Community Outreach Officer (Pfc. Carla Magnaye):

- On March 4, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye prepared and conducted part II of a four-week safety workshop at Takoma Park SDA Church on Identity Theft and Internet Safety.
- On March 7, Community Outreach Officer Carla Magnaye provided information on Neighborhood Watch to members of a neighborhood association, which will participate in the program. She also taught "Residential Security Program" as a guest instructor at the Maryland Public Safety & Educational and Training Center. (Police)

22. Crime Report: The most recent Takoma Park Police Weekly Crime Report (March 2-8, 2012) may be viewed online at: http://cathylevy.blogspot.com/2012/03/takoma-park-police-department-weekly_09.html. (Police)

23. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 110 traffic stops, which resulted in citations and five vehicle impounds.

During March 1-6, 2012, the following details were completed:

March 1, 2012

- Takoma Langley Crossroads Area (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued 11 State citations.

March 3, 2012

- Flower Avenue & Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) – conducted a 60-minute detail and issued four State citations, one warning and one Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO).
- New Hampshire Avenue & Holton Lane (no left turn/no u-turn) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three warnings.
- New Hampshire Avenue at Holton Lane (red light enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued four State citations.

March 4, 2012

- New Hampshire Avenue at Holton Lane (no left turn/no u-turn) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three warnings.

March 5, 2012

- Takoma Langley Crossroads Area (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued nine State citations.
- 900 block of East West Highway (passing school bus) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued four State citations.

March 6, 2012

- Spruce Avenue at Park Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Flower Avenue at Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one warning.
- Ethan Allen Avenue at Jackson Avenue (no right turn) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued three State citations, five warnings and one Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO). (Police)

24. Traffic Officer Stats (Cpl. Michelle Holmes):

Week of March 2-8, 2012

State Citations issued: 58

City Citations issued: 3

Safety Equipment Repair Orders: 2

Warnings: 3

Warrant Service: 2

Court: 4 hours

(Police)